Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 5, 2013

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MoDOT to Observe Day of Remembrance September 19

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

In what is planned to be an annual event, MoDOT Day of Remembrance ceremonies will be held on Thursday, Sept. 19, at the Central and District offices.

Starting this year, on the third Thursday of September, we'll pause to honor the memories of our co-workers who died in the line of duty and recommit ourselves to safety.

MoDOT records reveal that 131 people have died while working on the roadside, in shops and sheds or as a result of a crash on the way to or from a meeting. Unfortunately, we do not know the exact number of fallen colleagues. Reliable records are available only since 1946. We can safely assume that during the first years of our system-building efforts, others passed.

The Central Office ceremony, led by Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, will include a display representing all of the fallen. Family members are invited to attend the 1:31 p.m. event at the Fallen Worker Memorial, or if more convenient, the nearest district event. District employees can contact their customer relations division for details on local events.

The Fallen Worker Memorial was dedicated in July 2012.

"Everyone at MoDOT should keep in mind the heavy sacrifice made by our fallen co-workers' families, " said Director Dave Nichols. "We want them to know we remember their loved ones and honor their service to Missouri travelers."

This year, the Kansas City district will observe the Day of Remembrance by dedicating a memorial sign on the section of Interstate 70 where Clifton Scott spent his last moments. Scott was struck and killed last fall while assisting with a traffic crash.

"Transportation involves risk," said Hassinger. "We must dedicate ourselves – every single day – to doing whatever it takes to help our customers, our co-workers and ourselves make it home safely. We need to tell our friends, family and co-workers how their behavior affects the safety of others.

Let's commit to doing our best to never add another name to our plaques and monuments. Let's never name another stretch of highway in memory of a recently-lost colleague."

If you are not able to attend one of the ceremonies – and can do so safely – please take a moment on Sept. 19, at 1:31 p.m. to remember.

New Process Helps Employees Plan for Winter Season

by Holly Dentner

Even though we're in the middle of a late-summer heat wave, it won't be long before we're watching the skies for flakes of snow. That's why there's a team at MoDOT who worked all spring and summer to analyze our staffing needs for winter operations. They've developed a plan to make sure our winter operations run smoothly and we fulfill our commitment to Missourians.

What did they determine? As you can probably guess, it takes a lot of people and equipment to manage a winter storm. For a statewide event with significant snowfall amounts, the team estimated deploying over 3,550 employees strictly for plowing and treating roads during a 24-hour operation.

"We used a 2.1 ratio of employees to trucks to determine the number of employees needed," said Kevin James, assistant district engineer in the Northeast District. "Since we've got 2,400 'boots on the ground' maintenance employees available, we have to find ways to fill the gap."

To do that, MoDOT will once again rely on the help of non-maintenance, safety-sensitive employees who are salary grade 16 and under. There are over 700 employees who fall in this category, and their assistance is critical to reduce the staffing gap during big storms.

To close the gap even more, districts have been instructed to use emergency operators as much as possible during winter events. These are non-MoDOT employees who are recruited, trained, and placed "on-call" to help when needed. The team also recommended using seasonal maintenance workers when it is cost-effective and practical to do so.

"Determining staffing needs wasn't the only priority for our team," said James. "We recognized that all employees assigned to winter operations may need time off during the winter, and we wanted to find a way to make sure they had an opportunity to do so without leaving us understaffed."

The team developed a guaranteed leave policy that will allow 150 employees on any given day to receive approved annual leave in advance, and that leave is guaranteed regardless of the weather.

"We recognize there are instances when employees make plans that are difficult to change once they're made – plane tickets or other travel reservations, important family activities, and so forth," said James. "If the annual leave requests are submitted in advance, the employee's supervisor can meet with the maintenance superintendents and district maintenance engineer to evaluate that request."

Each district will have a share of those 150 slots based on how many trucks it has in its fleet. The districts are setting their evaluation criteria and process for determining which employee requests are approved. Even if a leave request isn't approved for one of the guaranteed leave slots, employees can be offered conditional leave that is considered tentative. In that instance, the leave request could be cancelled in the event of an emergency or snow event.

"I appreciate the work this team has done to prepare us for the winter, and I want to acknowledge the work of all MoDOT employees involved in winter operations, including those who plow snow, repair equipment, pay bills, staff the emergency operations centers, or answer customer service calls" said Ed Hassinger, chief engineer "I know you make personal sacrifices so that we succeed during winter events, and I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment, because your work is meaningful to every traveler in our state."

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

Hello Team MoDOT! The last time I wrote to you, I spent a little time bragging on your creativity and how we put innovation to work at MoDOT. We have some of the most talented thinkers and craftspeople around, and that's how we deliver truly great results. But what makes us a great organization is not our minds and hands, it's our hearts.

It takes the heart of a public servant to get out of bed in the middle of the night to set up road barricades on a flooded highway. It takes the heart of a public servant to stop on the way to the office to help a motorist change a tire. And it takes the heart of a public servant to spend nights and weekends volunteering at local churches and community organizations. These aren't one time instances or single employees. This is the heart of our organization.

Sometimes people ask me why I work for state government; why I've made this my career for 33 years. For me, the reason has always been that much of my job satisfaction comes from the fact that what I do serves the public. What I do is important. What I do matters. What I do changes lives. Every MoDOT employee can say that. Whether it motivates them or not, it is still true. I'm proud that so many MoDOT employees truly have the hearts of public servants. How do I know that? Well, there's not a week that goes by that I don't see letters and emails thanking Team MoDOT for being public servants both on and off the job. Those letters aren't about what I do or Dave or Ed or Kathy. They are about what YOU do, out there every day, focused on making a difference in someone's life.

And it's not just our time and talents helping communities across the state, it's our pocketbooks. I once read a self-help column that suggested you could determine what your life's priorities are by looking at your bank statement. The things you put your money toward after the basic necessities are your priorities. Each year, MoDOT employees show that helping their communities is a top priority by giving generously to the Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign. In fact last year was the sixth year in a row we led all state agencies in total giving. The heart of public service beats strongly at MoDOT!

In a couple weeks you'll be receiving your MSECC packet, and I hope you will continue to give with the heart of a public servant. Community organizations across the state depend on your donations to provide vital services to those in need. I know it's not technically one of our MoDOT Values, but allow me to offer an extra one … BE GENEROUS!

Thanks for being part of Team MoDOT!

PS – Be sure to watch your email for a special MSECC challenge from Dave Nichols.

Email Migration: Outlook, Lotus Notes Coexistence & Meetings

by Kellen Burns

Every email migration presents challenges. The migration from Lotus Notes to Microsoft Outlook at MoDOT is no exception. Although there are situations that will arise along the way, IS along with external partners are completely prepared to address each circumstance and gain the valuable experience each offers. That being said, you should be aware of how you may encounter coexistence-related issues in your own environment.

What is coexistence and how does it affect me?
Coexistence refers to the period of time in which both email systems, Microsoft Outlook and Lotus Notes, are actively in use by MoDOT staff. In order for both systems to work simultaneously there is a middle piece of software, which handles sending data between the two systems. While most items will be migrated with no problems, there will be cases where data isn't properly migrated or items, such as calendar events and meetings, do not translate perfectly. Each time a coexistence issues arises it's flagged by the software and you will be given solutions to resolve the coexistence problem.

Heads Up!
As the Email Team prepares mailboxes for migration, users may experience some slow response time in Lotus Notes. Although the slow response time can be painful, the Email Team's efforts are necessary to move forward with the email migration to Outlook. Your patience while those efforts are made is greatly appreciated.

The answers to many more migration-related questions can be found in the Outlook Email Transition Frequently Asked Questions document located on the Training Site.

Experiencing a coexistence issue? Submit them to the HelpDesk!

Unused Annual Leave Helping Coworkers

by Tammy Wallace

Did you know that on Oct. 31 any unused annual leave in excess of your maximum leave balance is automatically forwarded to ShareLeave? You don't have to do anything, it's automatic!

Here's an example of how it works. If an employee's maximum annual leave is 336 hours, and on Oct. 31 their balance is 346 hours, they automatically donate those 10 hours over their maximum to ShareLeave.

The ShareLeave program allows employees to help coworkers and their immediately family members who have a catastrophic or life threatening illness or injury by donating annual leave. Donations to this program have helped hundreds of employees facing difficult challenges.

But you don't have to wait until October to donate. The ShareLeave committee accepts donations throughout the year. Employees can sign up to donate hours every month, or make a one-time donation. There is always a need for donated hours.

If you would like more information on the program, or to sign up to donate hours, visit
http://wwwi.dot.missouri/intranet/shareleave/default.htm

You can email the ShareLeave team at: Shareleave.Team.Members@modot.mo.gov

Learning Media Basics

Nearly 100 MoDOT staff from every district and Central office took part in an interactive media workshop last week.

Johnny Little, CEO of elittle Media Group of St. Louis, a company specializing in advertising, public relations and marketing, lead the training.

The day-long workshop focused on the power of the media, what a reporter really wants and needs, the role of social media, interview preparations and interviewing and appearing on camera. The afternoon interactive session gave attendees the opportunity to practice what they learned during the morning segment.

Johnny Little, CEO of elittle Media Group, leads the discussion with MoDOT staff on effective media techniques. Photo by Cathy Morrison.

The training was designed to be a refresher for veteran employees who frequently deal with the media and as a good introduction for employees who have not experienced media training before.

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger and Customer Relations Director Mara Campbell opened the workshop by relating their own experiences in media relations and by giving perspectives on how being effective with the media helps MoDOT deliver excellent customer service.

Fast Facts

by DeAnne Rickabaugh

Missouri's population is now estimated as 6,021,988. The state licenses 4.4 million drivers. That's a lot of customers to delight!

What's Happening

Annual Golf Tournament Set

Don't miss the 9th Annual Transportation Day 10-33 Benevolent Fund Golf Tournament scheduled for Monday, Sept. 16 at the Columbia Country Club.

This year, 50 teams are set and ready for morning and afternoon tee times (8 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.). If you are interested in rounding out a team or adding a team, contact Travis Koestner at 573-291-6496.

The tournament is the largest fundraiser for the 10-33 Fund, and traditionally raises about $20,000. In the unfortunate circumstance that a state employee loses their life in the line of duty, the fund immediately provides $5,000 to the family in the loss of their loved one.

"Don't Zone Out" Campaign Receives Award

The 2013 work zone campaign, titled "Don't Zone Out," will be recognized by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association on Sept. 9 during its 2013 Roadway Work Zone Safety Awards.

The campaign was selected to win in the outreach program: state/provincial/regional category.

See the full story on the Central Office page - CO page.

Ribbon Cutting Set for New Hurricane Deck Bridge

A ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the Hurricane Deck Bridge the Lake of the Ozarks has been set for 10 a.m., Sept. 7, on the new bridge.

See full story on the Central District's page - Central District.

Missouri High Schools Challenged to Buckle Up!

Missouri high schools are being called to compete in the 2013 Battle of the Belt Challenge for an opportunity to win cash and prizes for their school and educate young drivers about safety belt use.

“Eight out of ten teens killed in Missouri vehicle crashes each year aren’t buckled up,” said Leanna Depue, executive committee chair for the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. “Through education, competition and fun, the Battle of the Belt Challenge can make a difference with Missouri teens and save lives.”

Talk to a teacher or board member at your child’s high school and make sure they sign up for this program.

To sign your school up visit www.saveMOlives.com. Agreement forms must be completed before October 1."

Follow SaveMOLives on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, #saveMOlives and #ArriveAlive.

Chat With the Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger's blog post and see Ed's comments on the new process that will help employees this winter - Chat with the Chief.

New Centennial Map – Good for Tablets Too!

The new PDF version of the highway map can be downloaded to tablets and smart phones (although the small screen on phones would make it harder to use).

Tablet users no longer have to grab a paper copy of the map when planning a trip or searching for a location. It’s also a good back-up option for those areas with spotty wireless/GPS coverage.

One word of advice; because the file size is very large, users will want to be linked to wi-fi to download the PDF of the map.

Happy traveling - http://www.modot.org/missourimap/

Win a MoDOT Centennial T-shirt

Congratulations to Central Office employees Karen Daniels and Alicia O’Connell and to Danny Woods of the Kansas City District for earning MoDOT Centennial T-shirts by knowing that Barrel Bob was born during the kcICON project. He quickly began making appearances statewide and gained a healthy Facebook following. Join Bob and his 7,800+ friends at facebook.com/MOBarrelBob.

Barrel Bob is a big fan of the subject of this quiz.

Currently, we’re celebrating the 20th anniversary of a program originally started to address air quality issues in metropolitan areas. By helping those stopped on the side of the road, employees in this program keep traffic moving which reduces the pollution caused by delay. But folks who get help with a flat tire, empty tank or some first aid tell us the service is one they can’t assign a

value. The program is known as:

- **Motorist Assist**
- **Yellow Jumpsuit**
- **On the Move**
- **Barrel Bob's Betterment Brigade**

Enter online here: **Quiz** or fax your answer, name and phone number to (573) 526-4859 by Friday, Sept. 27 for a shot at the next t-shirt give away *(link works for active employees only).*

September Service Anniversaries

30 Years
Stephen N. Heavin - CD
Larry A. Evans - SL
Glennon R. Nemec - SL
Carl Lee Gibbs - SL
Kevin J. Koch - SL
David K. Wiles - SL
Ronald D. Robertson - SE
Eugene Davis - SE

25 Years
Teresa J. Farmer - NE
Demetrius Arnold Webb - KC
Patricia L. Lemongelli - CD
Cary C. Armour - CD
Louis Nunley - CD
Sherry Lynn Backes - CD
Catherine Leah Rispoli - SL
Kirk A. Bennett - SE
Mark Thompson - SE
Curtis Wayne Clark - SE
Barbara L. Burch - CO

20 Years
Bryan S. Dorrel - NW
Pamela Sue Mettes - NE
Richard Wade Orr - KC
John Edward Sweet - CD
James R. Duncan - CD
Brenda Kay Archer - SW
John A. Sinclair - SW
Ryan L. West - SW
Craig A. Wood - SW
Carl J. Schwent - SE
Thomas Paul Sikes - SE
Russell W. Halton - CO
Richard R. Allsbury - CO
Dawn T. Haslag - CO

15 Years
Jeremy W. Jackson - NW
Ronald Richard Gricher - KC
Ray Lee Ruth - KC
Glen L. Parkes - KC
Lashawna Marie Judon - KC
William C. Cretzmeyer - KC
Russell A. Griffaw - SL
Patricia Ann Miller - SL
Scott A. Ernst - SL
Billie Jo Torner - SW
Craig E. Sweet - SW
Donald A. Hills - SE
Randal James Ewing - SE
Stephanie Ann Buschmann - CO

10 Years
James A. Robertson - NE
Michael A. Lorigan - NE
Howard J. Donahue - KC
Torrey Damon Canady - KC
Kevin Ray Nichols - CD
Michael R. Silvey - CD
Edwin L. Wilson - CD
Joseph Judson Molinaro - SL
Stephen William Ashley - SL
Miguel A. Noriega - SL
Stewart W. Orr - SL
Aaron L. Renfro - SW
Jeffery R. Bouvier - SW
Billy Joe Evans - SW
Dale R. Pliler - SW
Lucas Kyle Tourtillott - SW
Gary L. Glastetter - SE
Roy J. Stafford - SE
Steven Wayne Yamnitz - SE

10 Years Continued
Nicholas Lee Elliott - SE
Scot Andrew Stephenson - SE
James R. Fiske - SE
Nicholas L. Meese - SE
Timothy G. Williams - SE
Marcus James Allen - SE
Donald D. Clark - SE
Ada M. Farr - SE
Angelia J. Otto - CO
Candy D. Groes - CO
Cody A. Wilson - CO

5 Years
Doug E. Hahn - NW
Kevin D. Johnson - NW
Richard M. Evans - NE
Stacey Ann McKinley - KC
Brian M. Strong - KC
Roger W. Turner - KC
Francisco Gerardo Hernandez - KC
Marty R. Claiborn - CD
Brian S. Hulett - CD
Joshua D. Schauer - CD
Loren C. Groose - CD
Bradley A. Roberts - CD
Gary Tyrone Dave - SL
Bobbie Jean Hedrick - SL
Mark S. Hager - SE
Anthony M. Scholl - SE
Barbara R. Black - CO
Justin Clay Smith - CO

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Customer Relations - MoDOT
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573.751.2840 / www.modot.org

Editor: Tammy Wallace

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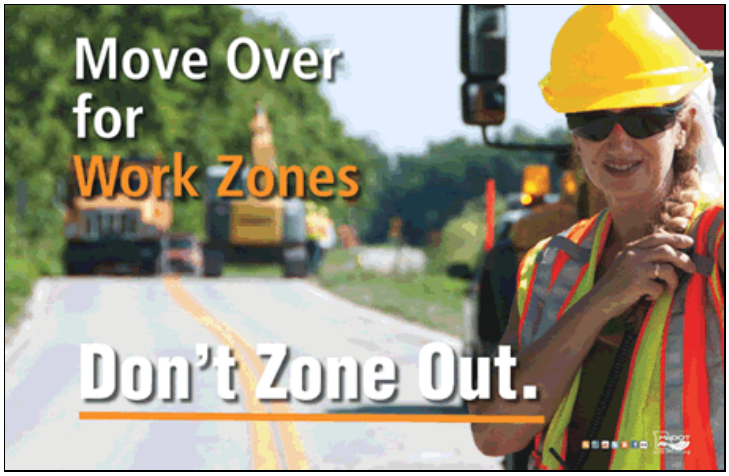
"Don't Zone Out" Campaign Receives Award

by Holly Dentner

Informing and educating drivers about work zone safety has been a critical communication effort for MoDOT. Since 2003, the department has concentrated on producing major safety campaigns to reduce work zone crashes.



Artwork and video for the campaign, such as this poster, was created in house by MoDOT employees.

The 2013 campaign, titled "Don't Zone Out," will be recognized by the American Road & Transportation Builders Association on Sept. 9 during its 2013 Roadway Work Zone Safety Awards. The campaign was selected to win in the outreach program: state/provincial/regional category.

Past work zone safety campaigns were primarily focused on what most people would think of as traditional highway work – long-term, stationary lane closures and major construction. In 2013, "Don't Zone Out" focused instead on short-term and moving highway operations. The change in direction came from the department's transition to more of a maintenance-focused program, and the desire to help motorists safely navigate around the variety of moving highway operations they encounter.

One of the key reasons for the development of the 2013 campaign was the loss of yet another member of the MoDOT team in September 2012. Motorist Assist Operator Clifton Scott had just established traffic control following a collision on eastbound Interstate 70 in Independence, Mo. He was struck and killed by a vehicle passing through the area.

Motorist Assist Operator Clifton Scott lost his life serving the citizens of Missouri. A public service announcement was created from Clifton's television interview - PSA.

For the department, Clifton's death emphasized the need to emphasize that not all work zones look alike. While MoDOT places signs, barricades, and other forms of traffic control far in advance of what most people consider a typical work zone, it's not always the case, particularly when work zones are established in an emergency situation or a moving operation such as mowing or roadway striping.

Clifton Scott was interviewed several years ago by a Kansas City television station, where he urged motorists to be caution as they approached work zones, and spoke of his desire to safely return home to his family every night. That footage was used to create a public service announcement, unveiled during Work Zone Awareness Week, April 15-19. That video is available here: Clifton Scott PSA. With the permission of Clifton's family and the television station, the public service announcement was created in house by MoDOT employees.

The “slow down and move over” law protects law enforcement and emergency response vehicles parked on the side of the road. In 2012, it was expanded to include MoDOT employees. The law requires motorists to slow down, or, if safe to do so, change lanes when approaching these vehicles. MoDOT vehicles parked on the roadway shoulder with amber or amber and white lights flashing are included in the law.

As part of the campaign, MoDOT released a video about the law and driving around moving operations. That video is available here: Slow Down and Move Over video – Move Over. The video also was created and produced in house by MoDOT employees.

Other components of the campaign included radio advertising and internet ad banners, Facebook and Twitter posts, safety materials distributed at rest areas, and news conferences in Kansas City, St. Louis, and other areas around the state.

Special thanks to Customer Relations staffers: Matt Hiebert - slogan "Don't Zone Out," Cathy Morrison - poster design, and Steve Bushko - video.

What's Happening at Central Office

2013 Service Award Recipients - Watch Your Mailbox

Central Office General Services has changed the administration of the Service Award Program. The new contract was awarded to MTM Recognition of Oklahoma, who will now be coordinating this program.

Gift brochures will be mailed to recipients home address on Sept. 10. Please watch your mail for this very important information, and make sure you get your order placed before the deadline of Oct. 7.

General Services is very interested in employee feedback and will distribute surveys at the end of this process. Please take the time to complete the survey share your thoughts.

Spinal Rejuvenation Workshop

with Dr. Brent Berlener of Discover Wellness & Rehabilitation

Wednesday, Sept. 25 – 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Training Room B, 601 West Main, Jefferson City, MO

Dr. Berlener's dynamic workshop is free to attend and will cover safe and effective non-surgical solutions to many common spinal issues. Click for details - Workshop.

Space is limited, so check with your supervisor then sign up for Course # 92000 - LMS Student Center *(link works for active employees only).*

If you have issues enrolling or have questions contact:
Kristen Bagwill - Kristen.Bagwill@modot.mo.gov - (573) 751-3941
MEE Zone Blog *(link works for active employees only).*

Remember, full-time employees have 24 MEE Zone Hours to use annually. Take some MEE time!

CPR Training

Location: HRED Training Room B, 601 W. Main, Jefferson City

Sept. 19		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 24	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Sept. 24	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 18		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Oct. 28		12 p.m. - 4 p.m
Nov. 5	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	
Nov. 21		12 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Dec 11	8 a.m. - 12 p.m.	

Sign up now using this LMS Student Center Sign-On link - LMS Student Center *(link works for active employees only).*

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Northwest District

New Missouri River Bridge Opened to Traffic

Area Engineer Mike Rinehart joins dignitaries from Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri on Sept. 1, 2013 for the ribbon cutting on the new Missouri River Bridge at Rulo, Neb.

The newest Missouri River Bridge in Northwest Missouri is now opened to traffic after almost three years of construction. Residents of Southeast Nebraska, Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas attended a grand opening celebration marking the opening of the new 1,026-foot-long span U.S. Hwy 159 Bridge over the Missouri River at Rulo, NE, at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 1.

"We applaud the collaborative effort put forth by everyone to make this project a reality," said Mike Rinehart, MoDOT area engineer and speaker at the grand opening. "Partnerships help ensure that great projects can continue to support communities across our region and our states."

Following the ribbon cutting, civic leaders from the tri-state area took part in a ceremonial motorcade crossing the bridge from west to east and returning again. After the motorcade cleared the bridge, highway crews completed painting lane markings directing U.S. Hwy 159 traffic onto the east and west approaches of the new bridge that replaces a structure that has spanned the river since November 1939. A groundbreaking ceremony for the new $25.7 million bridge was held Sept. 19, 2010.

Surveying at the District Office

Assistant District Construction and Materials Engineer Austin Hibler (in white hat) and District Final Plans and Reports Processor Nathan King were recently asked to survey around the Northwest District Office. There are several areas where water collects and before corrections can be made, a survey of the parking lot had to be done. Because the survey team is busy on other projects, Hibler and King stepped in to do the survey work for this project.

For more info

Melissa Black
Customer Relations Manager
Northwest District
816.387.2481
Melissa.Black@modot.mo.gov

3602 N. Belt Highway
St. Joseph, MO 64506-1399

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How Does YOUR Sidewalk Ride?

by Tana Akright, Senior Customer Relations Specialist

The safety of the traveling public and the interaction of pedestrians and bicyclists are vital when planning and designing safe and efficient
facilities for all users. Over the next few months, MoDOT and all regional planning councils across the state will be assessing city sidewalks. Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments, Boonslick Regional Planning and NEMO Regional Planning Council will be assessing sidewalks all over northeast Missouri to determine areas of sidewalk damage for replacement.

Bob Manzke with MoDOT's NE District helps David Cheek of the Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments Regional Planning Commission gather data for the sidewalk assessments in the district's communities.

"The first phase of the multi-year, multi-phase project is to assess sidewalks in communities with a 2010 population of 1,000 or higher," said David Cheek, Transportation Planner and Community Development Specialist with the regional planning commission Mark Twain Regional Council of Governments.

"We have 14 communities in this phase," he said and added that the second phase will be for the nine communities they represent with a 2010 population between 500 and 1,000.

MTRCOG is currently working in Hannibal which is the last community for them in the first phase.

Sidewalks are inventoried, located and drawn on a map, then assessed for a good, fair or poor condition.

"The data collected in the field is brought back to the office and then digitized by creating new layers for map documents," David explained. "We use ArcGIS Desktop GIS mapping software to make these maps, and the layers are then editable so they can be updated or changed if needed," he explained.

A final report and map is then presented to each community for their own use.

The surveys are an important part of developing a sidewalk repair program so the various cities and communities can allocate funds for the repairs or replacement of sidewalks.

Sidewalk repair sites are selected based on ADA requirements, such as condition of transition zones between curb ramps, intended use of the area, severity of sidewalk damage, constituent requests, then the actual locations for repair will be selected by the respective city councils. The Sidewalk Assessment Project is now part of all RPC's annual work programs across the state. The finished product will be incorporated into each RPC's Regional Transportation Plan.

Around the District...

Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger is not a stranger to the Northeast District, since he was the district engineer several years ago before moving to St. Louis.

While a lot of things have changed, Ed enjoyed visiting with employees, getting in equipment, having lunch with the maintenance leadership group, and then he even took the time to participate in the State of the Community event in Mexico with Paula Gough and Brian Haeffner.

Practicing good safety habits are essential in MoDOT's line of work, even if you ARE the chief engineer! Above Ed spots for Assistant District Engineer Kevin James while he backs out of a parking spot. We're happy to report there were no backing incidents during Ed's visit!

Marisa Christy-Kerns has been "published!" Her article, titled "Hearts and Hands Helping In Our Communities" along with her picture, appears in the September issue of Rural Missouri Magazine, focusing on MoDOT's Adopt A Highway program.

This magazine is distributed to more than 500,000 people! We are VERY proud of Marisa's accomplishment! See page 5 of Rural Missouri's online issue.

Child Seat Technician Classes Being Offered Free by Safety Coalition

Northeast Missouri is in need of certified child passenger safety technicians - individuals and organizations who are certified to properly install car seats. There are very few of these valued resources in our region, which is why the Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety is offering a CPS Tech Training Class in October free to those interested in helping us continue to reduce fatalities on Missouri roads.

Missouri law requires all children under eight to be in a child safety or booster seat until they are 80 lbs. or 4'9" tall. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, three out of four child safety seats are improperly installed.

"The more resources and technicians we have available to assist families with car seat installment, the safer children are in a vehicle," said Lisa Sitler, PhD(c), RN, APHN-BC, a certified passenger safety seat technician trainer.

As part of the NE Coalition for Roadway Safety, Sitler, and other certified trainers, will teach the three day course.

Classes will be held at MoDOT's Northeast District Office in Hannibal Oct. 2 thru 4 from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. with one-half hour for lunch. Class participants are required to help at a child safety event immediately following the training, so an event is being planned for Oct. 5. More specifics will follow on that event.

The Northeast Coalition for Roadway Safety will pay the $75 class fee for each participant and lunch will be provided.

"This course entails so much more than simply installing child safety seats," Sitler explained. "Participants will learn about topics ranging from motor vehicle laws, crash dynamics and vehicle safety, to talking to parents about safety," she added. There will also be demonstrations throughout the class.

If you have any questions, please contact Marisa Christy-Kerns at (660) 385-8257. To register for the class, please go to the website http://www.safekids.org/certification to sign up. Registration must be completed by Friday, Sept. 13.

ARRIVE ALIVE

Connections
A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

September 5, 2013

KansasCity District

Pilot Event Sets Hiring Record

by Michele Compton

Drawn curtains in bright MoDOT blue lent the air of formality and hush, but the low murmur of voices excited with opportunity still bubbled into the air. This was something new. This was something different.

Thirty-eight candidates -- the next generation of "boots on the ground" -- went from interviewee to potential hire in two days of rapid-interviewing.

The rigor of job hunting, interviewing and hiring took an unexpected twist as soon as the candidates walked into the room. A rapid-fire series of one-on-one interviews were done in a day. Thirty-eight candidates -- the next generation of "boots on the ground" -- went from interviewee to potential hire. The hiring managers had never done anything like this before – and they liked it.

Weeks of preparation culminated one Thursday and Friday morning when MoDOT's Kansas City HR staff piloted a new event that sped up the interviewing and hiring process and saved hundreds of hours of staff time, and set a new record by making almost 40 job offers in only two days.

The HR team rented a small hotel meeting space, then created individual meeting cubicles.

Human Resources Manager Deborah Hogan, along with her team, scheduled 80 applicants to a series of short one-on-one, rotating interviews with the supervisors and crew leaders, all to take place within four hours over two days.

“This is a really exciting event,” said Human Resources Director Micki Knudsen who attended the interviews to watch it unfold. “The team involved did a great job in representing MoDOT, it made me very proud and it was fun to watch. Based on what I’ve seen, I think it would be great for other districts, especially in metropolitan areas.”

The HR team rented a small hotel meeting space, then created individual meeting cubicles. Much like the famed speed-dating concept, each hiring supervisor and crew leader met one-on-one with their appointed interviewees for 25 minutes. They rated each interviewee’s responses on skill sets and values. At the end of each two-hour session, the hiring team convened as a group and discussed the results, using their ratings to determine the final hiring choices.

“This was a major collaborative effort to make this happen, a lot of pre-planning to make it run smoothly,” said Assistant to the District Engineer Randy Hartman, who also oversaw the process. “This has been a really cool deal and we look forward to watching this process unfold completely over the next few months as these new employees integrate into the team and start their career with MoDOT.”

More than 40 MoDOT employees -- from crews and office staff -- helped make this bold effort run smoothly and finish successfully.

No Rain on This Parade!

by Kerri Lewis

A parade lead by the Liberty North High School Screaming Eagles Marching Band kicked-off the Flintlock ribbon cutting ceremony.

U.S. Congressman Sam Graves, newly appointed Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Kelley Martin and MoDOT Director Dave Nichols were among several honored speakers attending the event.

Mother Nature might have rained on the district's parade for the Flintlock Flyover ribbon cutting celebration on Aug. 12 causing a cancellation, but the rescheduled event was a huge success. The morning event on Thursday, Aug. 22 was well attended and celebrated the opening of the new Flintlock Flyover in Liberty.

A parade led by the Liberty North High School Screaming Eagles Marching Band kicked off the ceremony. Followed by a school bus, the parade held as much significance as entertainment. The Liberty School District makes at least 128 bus trips on I-35 daily, transporting more than 5,000 students across the interstate. This project has opened another alternative to using the interstate and the busy I-35 and Route 152 Interchange, moving school buses and students safely and more efficiently. In fact, this project will help improve safety and reduce congestion, benefiting the school and the communities it serves.

"In September 2012, we broke ground to kick off this $11 million construction project. And today, less than one year later, we are cutting the ribbon to celebrate a significant piece of this project opening to traffic," said Assistant District Engineer Brian Kidwell, emcee of the ribbon cutting event.

U.S. Congressman Sam Graves, newly appointed Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Kelley Martin and MoDOT Director Dave Nichols were among several speakers at the event.

Funding for project construction happened thanks to an $8.9 million earmark from Congressman Graves and a valuable partnership and cost share with the cities of Liberty and Kansas City.

"This was truly a community project. Everyone here should be proud because it wouldn't have happened without broad community support and, of course, the federal backing that Congressman Graves worked so hard to receive," said Kidwell.

"I extend my personal thanks to everyone on this stage and especially to Congressman Graves for working with MoDOT to accomplish this project," said Martin. "On behalf of myself and the other Commissioners, we want to continue seeing projects like these help communities like yours prosper and travel safely well into the future. Since I've been on the Commission, I've been impressed with the partnering spirit and innovation that MoDOT brings to projects like this in an effort to stretch limited dollars as far as possible."

The Flintlock Flyover project includes a new bridge spanning I-35, which connects Flintlock Road from Kansas City to Liberty Drive in Liberty. A shared use path will also be constructed along the roadway and bridge. Work continues on the project until December.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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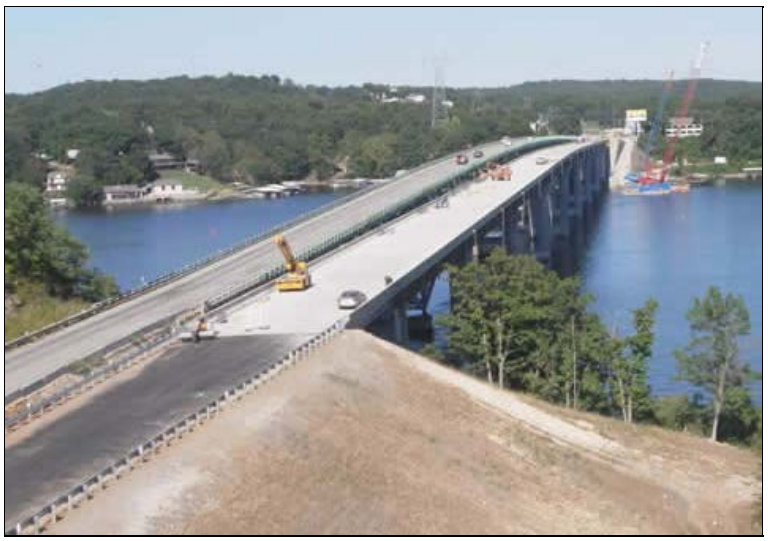
Ribbon Cutting Set for New Hurricane Deck Bridge

Construction of the new Hurricane Deck Bridge at the Lake of the Ozarks is well ahead of schedule, and a ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion has been set for 10 a.m., Sept. 7, on the new bridge.



A ribbon cutting to celebrate the completion of the new Hurricane Deck Bridge south of Sunrise Beach will be held on Sept. 7. The bridge, which was scheduled for completion at the end of the year, is opening several months early.

Fireworks, a parade, the Sunrise Beach Fire Protection District's fire boat and an appearance by cars in the Laurie-Sunrise Beach Rotary's Car Show are included in the ribbon-cutting festivities. State and local officials will also be on hand to cut the ribbon for the new bridge that spans Route 5 over the Osage arm of the Lake of the Ozarks.

"We're looking forward to having a big celebration for one of the last big bridge projects in the state," said Central District Engineer Dave Silvester. "We'll observe the history of the old bridge, and we'll celebrate the fact that the new bridge will make travel much safer and less congested in the area."

The new bridge, located south of Sunrise Beach, is wider than the old Hurricane Deck Bridge, with two 12-foot driving lanes and seven-foot shoulders on each side. It was built on the east side of the existing structure, which was completed in 1936.

When the new bridge is open to traffic on Sept. 10, the original bridge will be closed and prepared for demolition during the fall and winter of 2013. Final demolition will take place in the spring of 2014.

American Bridge Company, Inc. of Overland Park, Kan., is the contractor on the $32.3 million project, which began in May of 2012.

Central District Testing New Pavement Marking System

The Central District is testing a new pavement marking system called CemStripe at select state roadway locations in the city of St. Robert.

The benefits of the CemStripe system include longevity (3-5 years) and increased efficiency, since it allows traffic to drive on the markings sooner than most other marking systems. It also can be applied to damp pavement, whereas most other systems require dry pavement conditions. Based on its expected

longevity as opposed to current systems in use, CemStripe may prove to be a more cost-effective option.

Meramec Area Engineer Preston Kramer thought St. Robert would be a perfect place to test out the CemStripe system due to the high volume of traffic near Fort Leonard Wood. Traditional marking systems do not hold up well in these high-traffic environments, and often require frequent repainting of stop bars, dual left turn skips, and pedestrian crosswalks.

"We are comparing these locations against some traditional markings that were placed at nearly the same time," Kramer said. "Time and traffic will show us if this is a product that will have a place in MoDOT operations down the road."

The Central District is testing a new pavement marking system in a high-traffic area of St. Robert to see how it handles and holds up compared to traditional marking systems.

Flood Repairs Complete

Route H, Waynesville

Work to repair the last three flood-damaged roads in the district is now complete. The three projects were located on Route T near Newburg in Phelps County; Route H in Waynesville in Pulaski County; and an Interstate 44 outer road, also in Waynesville in Pulaski County.

These three projects required more extensive planning, design and construction work than some of the other damaged roadways. Those highways were repaired by district maintenance crews.

Flooding caused the roadway on Route T to slide and washed away part of Route H. On the I-44 outer road, a large pipe located at the entrance to the Laclede Electric Cooperative needed repair.

Route T, Newburg

I-44 Outer Road, Waynesville

5K Run/Walk to Benefit Crossroad Fund

The Central District Activities Committee will be hosting a 5K Run/Walk on Oct. 19 to benefit the CD Employee Crossroad Fund. The course is located at the North Jefferson City Pavilion and will follow a designated route, which

Registration Packet

will end back at the pavilion. Registration starts at 7 a.m. and the race starts at 8 a.m.

The registration fee is $25 if you register by Thursday, Sept. 26. After Sept. 26, the registration is $30 and there is no shirt guarantee. Registration with no shirt is $15.00. If you would like to purchase a shirt and not participate, the cost for the shirt only is $15 (S to XL) and $17 (2XL). Shirts must be pre-ordered and paid for by Sept. 26.

Completed registration forms along with your check for registration donation can be mailed or dropped off to Cindy Kremer at: Central District Activities Committee, PO Box 718, 1511 Missouri Blvd., Jefferson City, MO 65102, Attn: Cindy Kremer.

All proceeds benefit the CD Employee Crossroad Fund, a charitable fund established to provide assistance to Central District employees who are experiencing significant hardship through serious illness, either their own or an immediate family member's, or a life-changing catastrophic event.

Please visit and "like" the race Facebook page at www.facebook.com/cdemployeecrossroadfund5k for updates and more information. The information packet and registration form is available on the Facebook page. The event is open to the public, so please invite family and friends to participate. We are also looking for volunteers for to help out the day of the race.

For more information, please contact Cindy Kremer at 573-522-5266.

District Happenings

MoDOT Maintenance Bridge Crew Leader Jeff Schmitt presents the bridge plate from the old Saline Creek Bridge to a representative of the Miller County Historical Society. The new Saline Creek Bridge, located three miles north of the intersection of Route 17 and Route 52 in Miller County, was finished in August of 2012.

A visitor to the High Point Homecoming held Aug. 31 uses the fatal vision goggles to test his ability to walk the line. Transportation Project Designer Laurie Wyrick and her husband worked the event on behalf of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, Central Region.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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MoDOT Commemorates 20 Years of Motorist Assist

by Jack Wang

For 20 years, the Missouri Department of Transportation's Motorist Assist operators have come to the rescue of stranded motorists on St. Louis area interstates and highways. While the driver of a broken down vehicle may be relieved to see the familiar yellow and black Motorist Assist uniform, helping motorists is just part of what they do.

MoDOT celebrates 20 years of Motorist Assist service. These operators have come to the rescue of stranded motorists on St. Louis area interstates and highways.

In 2012, Motorist Assist handled nearly 37,000 incidents, including over 8,000 abandoned vehicles, over 7700 mechanical repairs and nearly 5500 tire changes.

These tasks help alleviate congestion on interstates, by moving incidents off to the right side of the road, allowing other commuters to safely and more easily reach their destination.

Clearing incidents sooner helps air quality by reducing congestion. It saves Missourians time and money that could be spent sitting idle, stuck in traffic, wasting gasoline. Motorists surveyed over the last 20 years rated Motorist Assist nearly 100 percent in customer satisfaction rating, higher than even Amazon.com.

"Our customer surveys tell us we're doing a great job helping stranded motorists on St. Louis interstates," said Tom Blair, MoDOT Assistant District Engineer for the St. Louis region. "I am proud of what these men and women of Motorist Assist are able to accomplish, providing this public service under dangerous conditions on our highways day in and day out."

Many of those travelers helped by Motorist Assist had the opportunity to personally thank the operators as MoDOT commemorated the 20th anniversary in the St. Louis district with an open house held in the evening on Aug. 29 at the Motorist Assist station in Chesterfield. The public viewed exhibits about the history of Motorist Assist and kids learned more about safety and participate in other fun activities.

Speakers at the event included MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Sam Dotson, St. Louis County Police Chief Tim Fitch and

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger speaks with Motorist Assist operator Chris Green and Incident Management Coordinator Owen Hasson about the Motorist Assist program.

other distinguished guests. Many motorist assist operators and their families participated in this event.

More information about the Motorist Assist program can be found at: Motorist Assist

St. Louis Metropolitan Police Chief Sam Dotson and MoDOT Assistant St. Louis District Engineer Tom Blair hold the official city of St. Louis proclamation declaring August 29, 2013 as Motorist Assist Day. This proclamation was given to MoDOT by St. Louis City Mayor Francis Slay in honor of Motorist Assist's 20th anniversary, and the work that this important department has accomplished in helping city motorists and improving the St. Louis community.

Route 364 Page Phase 3 Opens First Bridge

by Linda Wilson Horn

The Route 364 Page Phase 3 Design Build project hit its first major milestone with the opening of the Gutermuth Road bridge on Friday, Aug. 30. The bridge goes over what will be new Route 364. Construction work on the Route 364 Phase 3 project began in May. Gutermuth Road was closed June 3 to begin construction, and it opened to traffic on schedule less than three months later.

MoDOT, state and local elected officials cut the ribbon for the first bridge open on Route 364 Page Phase 3. The Aug. 30 opening was just three months after the start of the project construction.

MoDOT Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger, St. Charles County Executive Steve Ehlmann, and Cottleville Mayor Jim Hennessey spoke at a ribbon cutting ceremony on Aug. 30 to dedicate the new bridge. Former Missouri Highways and Transportation Commissioner Grace Nichols also attended the

ceremony. It is the first of 17 bridges to be built along the nine miles of new highway from Route 94 at Mid Rivers Mall Drive to I-64 at Route N.

Route 364 Phase 3 is a $118 million four-lane divided highway crossing through five municipalities in St. Charles County and will include new interchanges at Route 94, Route K, Bryan Road, Henke Road and additional ramps at I-64. The project received $57 million in funding from St. Charles County and the local municipalities including specific funds from the cities of O'Fallon and Dardenne Prairie.

The design-build project was awarded to Page Constructors, a joint venture with Fred Weber Inc, Millstone Bangert Inc, and Kolb Grading, with Parsons Transportation serving as the lead designer. Construction work began in May 2013. The new highway will open in three sections in the fall of 2014 with final completion by Thanksgiving 2014.

Approximately 100,000 cubic yards of dirt was excavated to build the Gutermuth Road bridge and prepare for the new roadway of Route 364. It is the first of 17 bridges to be built along the nine miles of new highway from Route 94 at Mid Rivers Mall Drive to I-64 at Route N.

MoDOT Reaches Thousands During Peacefest in St. Louis

by Shirlyn Myles

MoDOT and its partner, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety, were some of the many sponsors of Better Family Life's Peacefest on Aug. 25 in Forest Park's Central Field. The event consisted of information booths, community engagement, sporting events, and fun activities all day. According to the Community Outreach Director James Clark, an estimated 7,000 people showed up over the course of the day.

St. Louis Constructions Senior Office Assistant Oni Walker helps educate Peacefest attendees on highway safety.

Peacefest is the final event of multiple activities during the month of August including amnesty programs for traffic warrants, a professional networking event and family oriented activities. MoDOT, alongside Safe Kids, provided valuable information about highway safety, child passenger safety, and information on texting while driving. Other participating community partners were the St. Louis City and County Police Department, Metro St. Louis, Children's and Cardinal Glennon Hospital and Mid-America Transplant Services.

"We need more events like this," said Tewanna Williams, who brought her two young sons to the event. "I feel like if we have a place where we can come out and get to know each other, we can come together and help fix our community."

For more info

Marie Elliott
Customer Relations Manager

Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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SW District at Work

NEW SIGNAL CONFIGURATION: Going over how to set up a flashing yellow arrow at a traffic signal controller are, from left, Senior Signal Electricians Gilbert Valdez, Garry Brammer, Michael Marion and Traffic Supervisor Joe Dotson. (Photo/LeAnn Blankenship)

DRIVE SOBER: Fitting Nevada High School health fair participants with goggles and pedal cars for a "buzzed" driving simulation, are Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Randy Morris and Senior Traffic Specialist Don Demshar (standing). (Photo/LeAnn Blankenship)

Project in Ozark Will Have Positive Economic Impact, Leaders Predict

by Bob Edwards

A small project on busy Route 14/Business 65 will have a great impact for the city of Ozark, community leaders said during an Aug. 21 ribbon-cutting.

"It's provided now a vital link to ... our economic development of downtown," Ozark City Administrator Steve Childers said, adding, "Transportation and economic development definitely are linked."

A short, curved section of Route 14/Business 65 was widened to four lanes, with a center turn lane. A traffic signal was added on the curve at the three-legged intersection, where the ribbon-cutting was held.

The east-west segment of the road is Jackson Street and the north-south segment is Third Street, with Third Street continuing north toward the Ozark City Park and other areas.

Total cost was $2 million, with the city paying just over 50 percent of the tab because officials wanted aesthetic features -- decorative signal equipment and stamped brick sidewalk trim.

The partnership between MoDOT and the city of Ozark was praised by two legislators who participated in the ceremony.

District Engineer Becky Baltz, right, joins in a dedication of a Route 14/Business 65 widening project in Ozark. (Photo/Angela Eden)

Click on photo to watch a video by the Christian County Headliner newspaper.

"This is how projects get done," State Sen. Jay Wasson said.

"Great teamwork," said State Rep. Lynn Morris, who mentioned other road projects in the pipeline that will benefit Ozark, Nixa and northern Christian County.

Ozark Mayor Shane Nelson said construction did not disrupt traffic significantly, and that was a plus for the community.

The project was completed on time and on budget, District Engineer Becky Baltz told the gathering. She said the project meshes with what MoDOT is hearing from people through the On the Move public outreach -- take care of the existing system, enhance safety, spur economic development and integrate modes of transportation.

Southwest Employees, Safety Coalition Provide 'Buzzed' Driving Simulation

by David Mitchell

Consider what you can do in two seconds. Now consider what you can do in two seconds if you've been drinking.

Not drunk, mind you, just "buzzed."

It's less. Probably much less than you think.

That's the sobering message driven home during a late August health fair at Nevada High School by Southwest District employees working with the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety/Southwest District.

Why two seconds? That's the minimum safe distance recommended between vehicles on the road. When you are sober, that is.

The 75 faculty and staff at Nevada High School experienced what it is like to drive "buzzed" by doing ordinary things such as putting together a puzzle or driving a pedal car under the influence of perception-distorting "fatal vision goggles."

The goggles "get your eyes drunk," Senior Traffic Technician LeAnn Blankenship said, and let the brain "know what it feels like."

What happens if you are buzzed on alcohol or other drugs and an emergency arises?

"In two seconds you may have time to say, 'Oh my!' But you have no time to respond," Blankenship said.

She has been taking this message out to anyone who will listen for the past three years, especially aiming to reach young drivers directly and through their teachers. The activities are fun. The goal is serious -- getting drivers to take responsibility for their decisions and reducing impaired-driving crashes.

"Do you want to meet me on the road like this?" she always asks.

The program was valuable for the Nevada teachers who joined in, school health coordinator Crystal Burch told the Nevada Daily Mail covering the event.

"We want to keep our staff healthy," Burch said. "If they aren't healthy, they can't help our kids."

Blankenship is scheduled to take the buzzed driving program to a safety event at a Home Depot store in Joplin in early October. It's yet another opportunity to make a difference, she said.

"If I can keep only one family from getting that knock at the door in the middle of the night – 'I'm sorry to inform you of the death of your child.' -- then it's worth it."

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District

New Route M Overpass in Scott County Open to Traffic

Only three months after the collapse of the Route M overpass in Scott County due to a train collision, MoDOT's Southeast District opened the new overpass. The new overpass opened to traffic Friday, Aug. 30.

Before sunrise, District Engineer Mark Shelton was on-site to complete an interview with KFVS12 for the Breakfast Show about the bridge's opening.

"We worked as a team to accelerate this project," said MoDOT District Engineer Mark Shelton.

He explained the timeline for a 300-foot bridge like Route M typically includes four to five months to prepare plans and a six to eight month construction process.

"Plans for the new overpass were completed in 30 days, and the construction process was completed in 60 days," said Shelton. "I am very pleased to have the project completed so rapidly. It is vital for the safety of area motorists."

The overpass was constructed approximately 20 years ago to eliminate the use of at-grade railroad crossings in Rockview, Mo. Following the incident and the bridge's collapse, motorists were utilizing the at-grade crossings.

Shelton added that completing the project quickly also minimized impacts to BNSF and Union Pacific railroads.

"The railroad, MoDOT personnel and Fred Weber Inc. worked to get the clean-up and demolition of the remaining portions of the bridge completed throughout Memorial Day weekend," said Shelton.

Following the early morning collision on Saturday, May 25, a majority of the clean-up was completed by Sunday evening, with trains running on one of the impacted tracks.

"Both of the railroads were very cooperative following clean-up as well," he said. "They expedited their review of the plans, scheduled track closures as the bridge beams were set and provided flaggers throughout the project."

He added Scott County was helpful as the MoDOT team planned detour routes, and Burns & McDonnell assisted with the design of the new overpass.

On July 1, a $2,319,363 contract for construction of the overpass was awarded to Goodwin Brothers Construction Company.

"Our contractor went to work immediately and by Aug. 18 the deck pour was completed," said Shelton. "I appreciate their diligence in completing this project."

He explained this is a great example of what can be accomplished when various groups make a project a priority and work toward that goal as a

Construction crews headed home around noon once the Route M overpass opened to traffic.

team.

In celebration of the project's completion, MoDOT representatives were on-site during the bridge's opening to complete media interviews.

Photos of the Route M overpass project and opening are available at: www.flickr.com/photos/modot_se/sets/72157635256377569/.

Nearly $550 Raised for Christmas Angels

Bids Results Announced for Tim's Office Items

Thanks to former Project Manager Tim Richmond's generosity, nearly $550 was raised for the Christmas Angels Program through the Southeast District's recent auction. Each year, the program helps grant Christmas wishes to underprivileged families in Southeast Missouri.

In addition to the generous contributions to the Christmas Angels program, coordinators also sell chili each year to help raise funds for the program.

High bids for Tim's office items included:

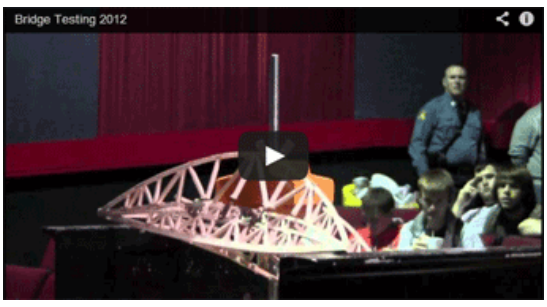
- The Night Stand - Debbie Couch
- The Hard Hat - Roxy Baldridge
- The One Man Band - Larry Nicholson
- The State Seal - John Koenig
- The Tiki Mask - John Koenig
- The Canvas Oil Painting - John Koenig

The Christmas Angels coordinators would like to thank everyone who participated in the auction!

Calling All High School Juniors, Seniors: 10th Annual Bridge Building Competition

Fall is quickly approaching, and so is the Southeast District's 10th Annual Bridge Building Competition. Each year, the competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials-15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

Prizes donated by area businesses and organizations will be awarded to the top bridge building winners. In addition, MoDOT has partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia and Southern Illinois University to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to $10,000 in scholarships.



Watch the bridges being put to the test during last year's competition at http://youtu.be/rrgNq6EWe-U.

Schools must register by Sept. 10 to compete in the competition. Contest information and registration forms have been mailed to area high schools. If a school is interested in participating and has not received the registration paperwork, they are encouraged to contact MoDOT. Additionally, an online registration form is available at: www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm.

The bridge kits will be delivered to the participating schools on Oct. 7 and 8. Completed bridges will be picked up from participating schools on Nov. 4 and 5.

Bridges entered in the competition will be tested Nov. 21 at Cape West 14 Cine in Cape Girardeau. The lightest bridge to

carry the greatest load will ultimately be declared the winner. Prizes will also be awarded for the most aesthetic bridge and to the winner of the electronic bridge competition.

For more information about the bridge competition, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292 or anita.clark@modot.mo.gov, Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294 or gretchen.hanks@modot.mo.gov, or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636). Photos and videos from prior competitions are available at www.modot.org/southeast/programs/BridgeCompetition.htm.

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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